



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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President's Report

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CZSG Elections 2010 - 2012

Another two years have flown by and the CZSG will be holding its elections for officers again. If you would like to run for office for the next two years, please contact our secretary John Smith. If you do not wish to serve in an elected position but would like to get involved in your organization, we need volunteers to help out at local meetings and major stamp shows – please contact me or any member of the Board of Directors if you wish to help.

Canal Zone Postal Stationery Handbook

Irwin Gibbs has done another outstanding job in documenting Canal Zone Stationery. All of our members received a free copy of his excellent reference with the 2nd Q 2009 CZP and we thank the United Postal Stationery Society for publishing and supporting this important work. I have used it often the past few weeks to research Panama stamps and stationery printed by the ABNCo, often using the Handbook as a guide to finding an object in Irwin's online exhibit on our website, as they complement each other and provide the casual collector, expert, or researcher with never-before access to this important component of Canal Zone philately.

Literature Palmares: Type III Overprints of the Canal Zone

Congratulations to Tom Brougham for the well deserved award of Gold in the Handbooks and Special Studies competition at the APS StampShow

A Puerto Rican Regiment in the Canal Zone - WWI

By Wayne Worthington

In both WWI and WWII, Army units of Puerto Rico played important roles in defending the Panama Canal from potential enemy incursions. Evidence of this role is the cover shown in fig. 1. This is a censored and registered cover from a Puerto Rican soldier presumably to friends or family in Puerto Rico. What is so exciting about this piece is the segment of Puerto Rican military

Fig. 1 Censored and registered cover from Canal Zone to Puerto Rico



history that it shows. Puerto Rico became a U.S. Territory following the 100-day Spanish-American War. Throughout their history, Puerto Rican volunteers could belong to a variety of militias, infantry, and mounted companies and finally, in February 1900, to the Puerto Rican Regiment-U.S. Volunteers. Then in May 1908, the U.S. Congress provided for the creation of a Puerto Rican Regiment of Infantry. In June 1908, the U.S. War Department made this regiment a part of the Regular U.S. Army.

In 1914, the Panama Canal was opened for inter-ocean operations and the U.S. War Department determined that three regiments of infantry were needed to defend the canal area. By 1917, the 10th, 29th, and 33rd U.S. Infantry Regiments were serving in this role; then the 10th was returned to the states enroute to Europe to be replaced by the 5th Infantry Regiment. Orders were then sent for the 29th Infantry Regiment to depart the canal defense force and it was replaced by the Puerto Rican Regiment of Infantry.

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Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from:

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Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Scans are preferred for figures of stamps or covers; however enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Commonly used abbreviations

CZ Stamps=Canal Zone Stamps, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP=The Canal Zone Philatelist

Entwistle=The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition, by Lawson P. Entwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992

French=Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979.

Scott=Scott's Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps, current edition.

ABNCo=American Bank Note Company

Special Auction Report
by Jim Crumpacker

The firm of Robert A. Siegel offered in June the "Laila" collection of U.S. Possessions, of which 140 lots were Canal Zone and included many of the better rarities. The large number of error stamps was especially impressive, with many of the "ten or less known" stamps available.

Based upon the realizations, the market for scarcer Canal Zone items, recession or no, is alive and healthy.

The first dollar amount listed below is the hammer price including commission. The other price, in parentheses, is the catalog value from the 2009 *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.

- 1e, PANAMA reading down and up, CANAL ZONE inverted, used, F \$9200 (\$7000)
- 1f, vertical pair, PANAMA reading up and down, OG, HR, VF \$1955 (\$2100)
- 3b, CANAL ZONE double, used, F \$13225 (\$15000)
- 9c, inverted overprint, used, F \$4788 (\$4000)
- 9d, double overprint, OG, H, VF \$2300 (\$2750)
- 10b, L of CANAL sideways, OG, HR, F-VF in block of 6 w/ 5 normals, \$2875 (\$2514)
- 14e, ZONE antique, PANAMA overprint in rose brown, TG, H, F in block of 4 w/ 3 normals \$1610 (\$2120)
- 14g, "8" omitted, rose brown, OG, HR, F in margin block of 4 w/ 3 normals \$5175 (\$4375)
- 15 var., PANAMA 15mm long, OG, H, F-VF \$1840 (\$2750)
- 15a, PANAMA reading down and up, TG, H, VF margin copy \$7763 (\$7500)
- 22g, inverted center, overprint reading up, OG, H, VF+ \$4788 (\$5000)
- 23a, horiz. pair, imperf between, OG, VLH, VF in strip of four \$2645 (\$2007)
- 23b, vertical pair, one w/o overprint, TG, HR, VF+ \$2300 (\$2500)
- 23i, CANAL double, TG, H, F-VF in pair w/ normal \$6038 (\$4000)
- 26a, double overprint, one reading up, OG, HR, F \$5175 (\$5000)
- 30b, vertical pair, one without overprint, some OG, H, F \$4313 (\$3000)
- 31a, inverted center and overprint reading down, used, F \$20125 (\$22500)
- 39f, booklet pane of 6, inverted center and overprint reading down, handmade margins, TG, H, F-VF \$5463 (\$8000)
- 55b, horiz. pair, right stamp w/o overprint, dist. OG, H, F \$1265 (\$1750)
- 55f, CANAL double, OG, H, VF+ \$1840 (\$2000)
- 57a, horiz. pair, right stamp w/o overprint, OG, HR, F-VF w/ 2 margins \$2300 (\$2500)
- 66, OG, H, XF \$173 (\$150)
- 84b, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, XF \$460 (\$500)
- 87a, ZONE ZONE, TG, H, F in pane of 100 \$4888 (\$7355)
- 92c, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, barely F in margin block of 15 w/ 14 normals \$4025 (\$3735)
- 100a, vertical pair, one w/o overprint, the unique BR corner margins pl. bl. of 4, #18730 (two errors), OG, H, F \$6325 (\$11000)
- J11a, ZONE omitted, OG, H, barely F \$9200 (\$8250)
- J11b, "4" omitted, TG, H, barely F, \$8625 (\$8250)
- J20a, vertical pair, one w/o overprint, OG, HR, F w/ top margin \$2875 (\$3500)

President's Report
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held this August in Pittsburgh. His handbook will be the reference for these overprints for many years to come.

ABNCo Research

While researching my Panama ABNCo stamps this summer, for the most part those that were overprinted for the Canal Zone from 1904 to 1923, I was able to locate some of the records of the ABNCo which have important information concerning both the Canal Zone and Panama stamps and stationery. My goal is to interpret and then publish these new data during the next year. So far it appears that our *CZ Stamps* book has been extremely accurate, but I hope to fill in some of the gaps between Panama and the ABNCo and then the delivery of these orders from the ABNCo to Panama and eventually to the Canal Zone.

Taboga WW I German Internees

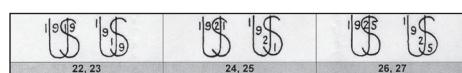
Thanks to our members who have contributed copies of additional covers to and from the German World War I internees. I have located what might be several additional sources of data and will delay publishing the census in hopes of being able to add more to what has already been published previously in issues of the *CZP*. Please feel free to contact me if you have any new information regarding this interesting episode in Canal Zone and Panamanian history.

Mail Sale Update

Catalogue available:
approx. Oct 15
Sale closes: early Dec

Errata

An error has been found on page 53 of the 2009 Canal Zone Postal Stationery catalogue: the third row of watermarks is not correctly labeled. As published it reads: 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26. It should read: 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 as shown below.



The error affects watermarks on envelopes 6, 6a, 6b, 7, and 7a.

The Panama and Canal Zone

Waterlow Essays

By Federico A. Brid

Upon learning that I had acquired four early Panama and Canal Zone essays by Waterlow Bros. & Leyton of London, David Zemer asked me to revisit a 1989 article published in the *Canal Zone Philatelist* by Gary H. Weiss and David J. Leeds. In that article they revealed for the first time the existence of these four essays.[1]



Fig. 1 Full shadowbox card for 4 centavo essay at top
(darkened to show inscription);
Essays for four Waterlow designs below

The 22 x 25 mm stamp size essays are painted on 2mm thick shadowbox cards, each card 76 x 115 mm in size. The designs were first drawn in pencil and then entirely hand painted in water colors with lettering in Chinese white. The quality of the detail and coloring is such that they can be classified as miniature works of art.

The article by Weiss and Leeds starts with black and white photographs and a description of the four essays, two of them with the vignette depicting the bust of Balboa and the other two with the Panama coat of arms. The essays with the image of Balboa alternate from a single red carmine color for the Panama stamp to black and bright green for the Canal Zone stamp. This single and dual color scheme is reversed for the stamp with the coat of arms. The Canal Zone stamp is in single blue color and the arms of the Panama stamp are in green with a lilac frame. The authors end the description of the essays with the following comment: "The above information is factual. Everything else that follows is speculation."

Weiss and Leeds write that "the time of preparation [of these essays] was between 1904 and 1906. As the denominations are in centavos and pesos rather than centésimos and balboas, the designs were started prior to the currency change in 1906 in the Republic of Panama."

They believe that the Waterlow essays were created to compete for what became the Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue of 1906 and possibly the American Bank Note Co. issue of 1909.

Since no documentation has been found in Panama or has come out of the Waterlow archives that would shed light as to when or why these essays were produced, the speculation that Weiss and Leeds point out can be made less speculative and the two-year span can be narrowed substantially if we review the Panama coin and stamp literature of the 1904-06 period in question.

Balboa, the new Panama currency

In April 1904 a committee of La Convención Nacional recommended that the Panama currency be named Balboa in honor of the discoverer of the Pacific Ocean. On June 28, 1904, La Convención Nacional issued a law[2] declaring the Balboa the monetary unit of the Republic of Panama and ordered the minting of US \$1,500,000 worth of new silver coins at the Philadelphia mint depicting the bust of Vazco Nuñes de Balboa on the obverse and the National Coat of Arms of the Republic on the reverse.[3] The law also ordered the gradual recall of Colombian silver coins in circulation to be exchanged for U.S. dollars and smelted for the production of the new Balboas. The law further stipulates that the new currency will be "divisible in one hundred centésimos (100/100)." [4] On February 4, 1905, the Colombian pesos and centavo coins were declared invalid for use in the Republic and five silver Balboa coins were placed in circulation.[5] [See figure 2]

The proposed definitive issue of 1904

The *Gaceta Oficial* of March 2, 1904, published an announcement dated February 18, 1904, by which the government of Panama was requesting bids from local agents for the production of 600,000 sets of stamps, whose face value would be one peso, 50 centavos, 25 centavos, 10 centavos, 5 centavos, 2 centavos, and one centavo. The set

Waterlow essays

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Fig. 2 Silver 50 centésimos de Balboa coin placed in circulation in 1905



would also include a 10 centavos registration stamp and 5 centavos acknowledgement of receipt stamp.[6]

The successful bidder would have the following contractual obligations:

- o To contract with the American Bank Note Co. for the manufacture of the stamps.
- o To deliver the 600,000 sets of stamps within sixty days of the award of the contract.
- o To use their own funds to cover the costs of the production and the delivery of the 600,000 sets of stamps.
- o Upon completion of the order to provide the government of Panama with the original lithographic plates.

The Panama government would agree to the following conditions:

- o To provide to the winning bidder up to 75,000 sets of the new stamps canceled to order.
- o To sell to the contractor the remainders of the old Colombian stamps for a percentage of their face value.

The early Canal Zone postal system and the Taft agreement of 1904

As a temporary measure and in order to initiate a postal system in the newly created zone, the Canal Zone government requested that Panama supply existing Panama stamps. On June 24, 1904, the Canal Zone postal authorities placed in circulation three values of Panama stamps overprinted Canal Zone which they purchased for 20% of their face value.[7] On July 9, 1904, the Panama stamps were replaced by five values of US stamps overprinted CANAL ZONE/PANAMA.

Soon after the 1903 treaty was approved by the U.S. Senate,[8] frictions erupted around three issues that had a negative impact on the commerce of Panama, and more importantly, the government of Panama believed that these issues were a gross usurpation of her sovereign rights over the Isthmus of Panama.

The main areas in dispute were the exclusive utilization of the Pacific and Atlantic ports by the Canal Zone authorities, the establishment of custom houses in said ports so the government of the Canal Zone could collect import duties, and the establishment of a postal system that competed adversely with Panama since it was cheaper to post a letter to the U.S. in a Canal Zone post office than from Panama.

On August 11, 1904, Panama sent to Washington a special envoy with ministerial powers, Mr. José de Obaldía, to deliver a formal protest to the U.S. Secretary of State.[9] The situation was becoming explosive since massive street protests were a daily occurrence in the vicinity of the Colon and Panama ports. Given the severity of the situation, President Theodore Roosevelt sent to Panama, in late November 1904, the Secretary of War, William Howard Taft,

to negotiate and resolve these disagreements.

On December 3, 1904 the U.S. issued an executive order which is most commonly known as the Taft Agreement of 1904.[10] On postal matters the Agreement stipulated the following:

- As of December 12, 1904, the Canal Zone and Panama will act as if they were one territory in the dispatching of the local mail and mail to the US.
- The franking fees for this service will be the same as the US internal postal rates.
- The postal administration of Panama will furnish to the Canal Zone current Panama stamps overprinted CANAL ZONE in the quantities and denominations ordered by the Zone. The Canal Zone government agrees to purchase these stamps for 40% of their face value.

The Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue

One of my Panama specializations is the Hamilton Bank Note Co. issue of 1906. I have done what I believe is an exhaustive search in the Panama Archives, have read the Panama newspapers and the *Gaceta Oficial* issues of 1904-1906, have also read the annual reports of the Ministers of Government and the Exchequer looking for contractual or written communications between Panama and the Hamilton Company, and have come up empty handed.[11] Equally disappointing are the results of a series of correspondence trying to obtain archival information on orders and printing data from the company that purchased the Hamilton Bank Note Co.[12]

The contractual order for printing on the nine-value Hamilton set most likely was done in mid-1906 with a sense of urgency since Panama was eager to replace the provisional overprinted Colombian stamps with a definitive issue of the Republic. The Hamilton stamps were placed in circulation in two stages almost immediately after they arrived in Panama. The 1 centésimo value was issued on September 1, 1906 and the other eight values on November 20, 1906.

The subject of the vignettes of the nine values including the coat of arms and the image of Balboa came from large cards originating from the photographic studio of Mr. C. Endara. These cards are preserved and mounted in a Panama Hamilton 3-volume collection of the National Postal Museum.[13]

Summary and conclusions

It is a fact that the denominations of the Waterlow essays are in centavos and pesos. Weiss and Leeds believed that because of this the designs were started "prior to the currency change of 1906 in the Republic of Panama." As we have seen, the currency change took place with the issuance of law #84 on June 28, 1904, and the establishment of the Balboa as the Panama monetary unit divisible by 100 centésimos. The new Balboa silver coins started circulating on February 4, 1905, leading us to believe that the essays were produced prior to that date.

It is possible that the Waterlow essays were an attempt to enter into the bidding process announced on February 18, 1904. That announcement described the value of the stamps in pesos and centavos. However I believe that this is not likely because the Waterlow company would not have entered into a bidding process when one of the conditions was that the stamps were to be printed by the ABNCo of N.Y.[14]

Weiss and Leeds believed that the Waterlow essays were produced to compete with the Hamilton issue of 1906 and



Fig. 3 Balboa wearing Celada type of helmet with feathers

perhaps with the American Bank Note Co. issue of 1909. They point to the similarities between the 2 centavo Waterlow essay and the 1 centésimo stamps of the Hamilton and American Bank Note Co. issues.

It is true that the frame of the 2 centavo Waterlow essay is in green like the frames of the 1 centésimo stamp of the 1906 and 1909 stamps would be green. The image of Balboa wearing a Celada type of helmet with feathers was an established image produced during Balboa's lifetime[16] and it was the image utilized by the Philadelphia mint for the obverse of the 1904 Balboa coins. [See figure 3]

By the end of June 1904, Panama had established the Flag, the bust of Balboa, and the Coat of Arms as its national symbols. It would be logical for the Waterlow company to utilize two of these symbols for a presentation on a new issue.

But the most compelling argument for why the essays were not designed to compete with the Hamilton or the American Bank Note Co. issue is their currency denominations. The Waterlow company as well as various bank note companies that operated in Latin America lobbied and obtained their printing business through local agents. These local agents gathered the required information and models and furnished them to the bank note companies for the creation of the stamp designs. It would be highly unlikely for a local agent to have furnished the Waterlow company with information on the currency of a country that was out-of-date by over a year and a half.

The second most important factual aspect available to narrow the date and purpose of when and why these essays were produced is the existence of the two essays marked Canal Zone.

In reading the series of 1904 correspondence and cables of the Governor of the Canal Zone, Mr. George W. Davis, to Washington and to the Panama Secretary of State[17], it is obvious that the timing of the introduction of the Canal Zone first issue is such that it would be practically impossible for a bank note company to propose to the Panama authorities a stamp issue that included stamps for the Canal Zone. This timing restriction also applies to the period between the end of the first issue and the start of the U.S. overprinted CZ stamps, Scott #'s 4-8.

The Taft Agreement and its subsequent Panama decree ordered that as of December 12th, Panama and the Canal Zone would operate for the purpose of rates as if they were one postal territory. That same day the Canal Zone postal authorities placed in circulation two Panama stamps produced

by the American Bank Note Co., Canal Zone Scott Nos. 9 and 10, that were not issued in Panama until February 4, 1905, as Panama Scott Nos. 179-80. The denomination of these two stamps is not in centésimos, but centavos, and the central theme of the two stamps is the Isthmus of Panama, a topic that the American Bank Note Co. had visited when they printed the Department of Panama issue of 1892-96, Scott Nos. 15-21. [See figure 4 on next page]

The arrival of Mr. Taft in Panama was a very public and celebrated event and most likely it did not go unnoticed by bank note company agents in Panama working on behalf of Waterlow and the American Bank Note Co. Negotiations between Panama and the U.S. concerning postal matters started immediately after Secretary Taft arrived in Panama in late November 1904. Word must have gotten out of the impending agreement to continue to use Panama stamps in the Canal Zone post offices and the bank note companies would have rushed to present projects to satisfy this demand.[18]

It is my belief that the Waterlow essays were an attempt to offer Panama a definitive issue for the Republic and a companion issue for the Canal Zone. This would date the Waterlow essays around January 1905, just before the new Balboa coins were placed in circulation.

I would like to end this article quoting from Weiss and Leeds: "If these designs had been accepted, none of the subsequent overprint varieties would have come to exist and collecting Canal Zone would not be nearly as much fun."

FOOTNOTES:

- [1] The *Canal Zone Philatelist*, Vol. 25, #3, 1989, pp 17-18.
- [2] See *Gaceta Oficial*, of July 5, 1904 for Law #84 of June 28, 1904.
- [3] Law #64 of June 4, 1904, adopted the design of Mr. Nicanor Villalaz as the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Panama.
- [4] This division as well as parity between the Balboa and the U.S. dollar was part of the monetary agreement between Panama and the United States of June 20, 1904.
- [5] Decree #92 of February 4, 1905, places in circulation the following fractional coins: 50 centésimos, 25 centésimos, 10 centésimos, 5 centésimos and 2 ½ centésimos.
- [6] The same announcement was repeated in the *Gaceta Oficial* of March 10, 1904.
- [7] 2,500 2c stamps, 8,000 5c stamps and 5,000 10c stamps of the 3rd and 4th Panama overprinted series (CZ Scott 1-3).
- [8] On November 18, 1903, the United States and the Republic of Panama signed a treaty that granted the U.S. a perpetual lease on the Canal Zone. The treaty was approved by the U.S. Senate on February 23, 1904.
- [9] See letter from Minister José de Obaldía to the U.S. Secretary of State published in the *Gaceta Oficial* of September 6, 1904, pp. 2-4.
- [10] The Taft Agreement continued to be in effect until it was abrogated by the U.S. Congress on May 28, 1924.
- [11] These are the only sources of information in Panama on postal matters since the Panama postal system does not keep historical documentation nor does it have a library or an archival system.
- [12] The Security Bank Note Co. acquired the printing plates of Hamilton in 1951, but no printing and order data came with that purchase.
- [13] The Endara cards were first illustrated in a two-part article "Panama the Issue of 1906: History of the development of designs, essays, proofs and stamps prepared by the Hamilton Company of New York" by Philip Ward Jr, CCP, Vol. XXVII, #2 & #3, pp 21-29 and 45-50.

[14] ABNCo index cards with a date of May 14, 1904, have pasted to them finished dies of the one centavo and two centavo Panama stamps *Scott* 179 and 180. We believe these two stamps were an attempt by the ABNCo to partially respond to this announcement.

[15] See Panama *Scott* Nos. 8, 15, 179, 209, 221 etc.

[16] Image also illustrated in Julius Grigore, *Coins & Currency of Panama*, Krause Publications, 1972.

[17] See Plass, Brewster and Salz, *Canal Zone Stamps*, the Canal Zone Study Group, 1986, pp 6-25.

[18] ABNCo was able to meet this need in a timely fashion since they already had worked on a design and had prepared dies for a partial set of Panama stamps. In fig. 4, two final production blocks of four overprinted SPECIMEN dated May 14, 1904, show the shipment date handstamp on their margins. After arrival in Panama these two stamps were overprinted CANAL ZONE and became *Scott* 9 and 10.



Fig. 1 and 2 centavo production blocks of four overprinted SPECIMEN (Images courtesy of D. Zemer)

Just How Many No. 91c Can Exist? by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Both *Scott* and *CZ Stamps* identify the number of copies of No. 91c, the 17c Wilson with overprint reading ZONE CANAL, as 270. That number is based on the belief that three panes existed, each with nine rows reading ZONE CANAL, and the tenth row reading either ZONE only (No. 91a) at the bottom of two panes, or CANAL only (No. 91b) at the top of the other. This provides the basis for the number of copies of 91a (given as 20) and 10 of the 11 copies of 91b. George Brett in drafts of the chapters on U.S. Overprints that became part of the Dade-Schay manuscript states:

Several errors showed up in the first printing of the 17c which was overprinted in sheets of 100 so far as we know. Not all these, however, were to get out by any means since the Canal organization destroyed 14,100 "improperly surcharged" on March 29, 1927. Three sheets did get out with misplaced overprints: UL Pane 18021, CANAL only, on top row, ZONE CANAL on the rest of the sheet; LL panes with plates 18022, 18023 both with ZONE only on the bottom row, ZONE CANAL on upper rows. In addition to these errors a misplacement in the setting was found on No. 7 of LL panes whereby the L of CANAL was over the Z of ZONE. . . . Two paper folds noted on the UL pane affecting position 100 are both on the horizontal bias and with the corners folded under resulting in one without the word ZONE and the other with the lower part of the word ZONE missing.

The last statement provides the basis for the 11th copy of 91b as indicated in the Dade-Schay manuscript.

This general argument for the possible number of copies that can exist of each of the three varieties was carried forward from the Dade-Schay manuscript to become the basis for the numbers of copies that can exist of varieties on No. 91 in *CZ Stamps*. The number of ZONE only was given as 20 and the number of ZONE CANAL as 270. These are the number possible in theory, assuming no overprints are split, as the authors then offer "a note of caution: stamps are frequently offered as CANAL only errors which do not classify as the error! There should be no trace of ZONE on the perforations at either the top or the bottom of the stamp

for it to be a CANAL only, as these are split overprints." The same advice applies to copies of 91b and 91c.

In the late 1960s I was a new convert to Canal Zone stamp collecting and while a graduate student in NYC attended auctions that took place there. Some sales held by Robert A. Siegel Galleries offered many copies of 91c with straight edges at right or at top, or both. Many were in multiples of



Fig. 1 Block of 10 of No. 91c with SE at right

various types and sizes, such as the block in fig. 1. They were going cheap, and being naive and thinking I was getting a bargain, I bought them. In tallying up the number of copies with SE at R, there seemed to be a mismatch between the numbers I had in my possession, and the number possible according to *Scott*, the major source of information at the time. For 270 examples of 91c, if they came from three panes, there would be 24 copies with SE at R, plus three copies with two SEs, two with SE at T and R, and one with SE at B and R. I was pretty sure it was unlikely that I had managed to round up all the SE copies, yet I had 26

SE copies. Moreover, my grouping included copies with SE other than only at right, and they were all either with SE only at top, or with SE T and R. None had a SE at the bottom. Thus all these SE copies seemed to have come from bottom panes, the ones that also gave rise to variety 91a, the ZONE only. Bottom panes characteristically have a SE at the top, and the 91a and 91c varieties were produced by an upward shift of the overprint. The conclusion to which this information led is that there had to have been more than two bottom panes giving rise to examples of 91c, with the ZONE only on the bottom row. Bob Karrer reminded me recently of my preliminary conclusion, and I realized I had been working for nearly 40 years on the question of how many panes produced the ZONE CANAL variety.

Initially, I resolved to continue looking for additional copies with SE R. A request to CZSG members brought one or two responses. Over time, I have been able to increase the number of copies with SE at R to 31, including with SE at both T and R. Thus there had to have been more than three panes that produced them, and the number of possible copies of 91c had to be more than 270.

More significantly for determining the minimum number of panes on which the overprint was shifted that could give rise to copies of 91c, in looking back over the copies of 91c, I realized I have acquired a number of copies of No. 91a, the ZONE only variety with SE at right. If the selvedge is attached, these are distinctive and must be position 100 of a LR pane because of the black guideline and arrow. Even if the guideline does not show, the arrow does, though both are present on both copies shown in fig. 2.

So now nearly 40 years later, I am ready to give the reader a report. Figure 2 shows two single copies of 91a, both of



Fig. 2 Two copies of No. 91a ZONE only with SE at right

which come from position 100. Moreover, fig. 3 shows an additional two copies of 91a with SE at right that are part of two blocks of 4. Thus these four copies of 91a from position



Fig. 3 Two blocks of four with SE copies of 91a at lower right



Fig. 4 Plate block of No. 91 with three copies reading ZONE CANAL at left.

100 must have come from four different panes. There must have been four LL panes that created 40 copies of 91a plus 360 copies of 91c. When the additional pane that created the CANAL only varieties is included, the additional 90 copies of 91c possible from that pane brings the total to 450, arising from five different panes with shifted overprint.

A final comment about the number 450 is justified. It is analogous to the number 270 in the literature and currently in *Scott*, which was derived by multiplying 90, the number of examples possible per pane, by 3, the number of panes with shifts giving rise to 91c. That number (270), and the new number (450), may be somewhat higher than the actual number of copies of 91c created if some copies are only split overprints, not certifiable as ZONE CANAL.

It is also possible the number may be more than 450. The plate number block of 6 in fig. 4 shows why. It has an APS certificate stating that it has three examples of 91c with ZONE CANAL at left, the three right stamps being split overprints. If this block is not from the pane that created the CANAL only varieties or one of the four panes that created the ZONE only errors, the three copies of 91c in the block in fig. 4 (and any other copies from the same pane) would represent an additional source of examples of 91c above the 450 possible from the 91a and 91b error panes. But the evidence says that is not the case. The plate number 18021 on this block matches the known plate number for the CANAL only pane. And the positions of CANAL in the overprint on this block match those on the known examples of 91b. So it is highly likely the block in fig. 4 is from the 91b pane, and thus not from a new source of examples of 91c. This caps the number of copies of 91c possible at 450, 90 each from the five panes that gave rise to 91a and 91b, with some fraction of the possible copies of 91c not qualifying as such because the overprint is split. Thus using the same basis as employed currently by *CZ Stamps* and in *Scott*, the numbers should be adjusted to read:

- 91a ZONE only, 1P (40)
- 91b CANAL only, 1P (11)
- 91c ZONE CANAL (450)

The author was aided in preparing this article by the George Brett papers at the National Philatelic Museum.

Secretary's Report

John C. Smith
408 Redwood Ln.
Schaumburg, IL 60193
email: czarrowjcs@aol.com

As of August 09, 2009, our total membership stands at 611. Unfortunately, 44 have been dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues.

Your Board of Directors wishes to recognize and thank our 114 Sustaining and 129 Contributing members who have contributed extra to help make the CZSG what it is. We also wish to thank all our regular members for their continued support.

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2603	Kye E. Parsons, MD
2604	Santiago Acosta, FL
2605	David L. Dubois, MA
2606	Alexander I. Traxler, TX
2607	David Cottrell, MD
2608	Robert A. Edmondson, GA

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2446	Lawrence J. Casey, OR
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 2609 Jim Raper

CZSG Meeting at PIPEX in Portland

We had a small Canal Zone Study Group meeting on Sunday, May 24, during PIPEX, a national level stamp show held in Portland. Three members and one potential new member attended. We discussed the benefits of membership in the study group and had a short show and tell session.

Although the meeting was small, we had a good discussion and everyone enjoyed the chance to get together.

Dickson Preston

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

The second calendar quarter, April 1 through June 30, 2009, was above average in terms of quality offerings of Canal Zone philately by auction houses. This was in good part due to a sale of rarely seen stamps with inverted centers, but there was also other scarce material available.

The first price seen below is the hammer price to include any commission. Next is the catalog value out of the 2009 *Scott's Catalogue*.

5, pl.bl. of 6, #2203-L, OG, H, F-VF \$585 (\$1000)
 RegencySuperior
 22g, inverted center and overprint reading up, TG,
 H, XF w/ top selvage \$3075 (\$5000)
 Spink/Shreves
 22g, inverted center and overprint reading up, used
 pair on cover 3/15/09 to US, one stamp with
 surface scrape o/w VF, cover repairs \$18500
 (\$12500) Spink/Shreves
 13g, inverted center and overprint reading up, used,
 some short and scuffy perfs o/w VF \$4988
 (\$6000) Spink/Shreves
 23g, inverted center and overprint reading up, VF
 on F cover Crist. 4/20/08 to US \$15050
 (\$12000) Spink/Shreves
 31a, inverted center and overprint reading down,
 used, some blunt perfs. o/w F \$15388
 (\$22500) Spink/Shreves
 39f, booklet pane of 6, inverted center and overprint
 reading down, handmade margins, OG (interl.
 adheres), knife cuts 1+ margins, F-VF \$3090
 (\$8000) Spink/Shreves
 46a, overprint reading down, OG, interl. adheres,
 F margin copy \$199 (\$375) RegencySuperior
 46b, double overprint, OG, H, F-VF \$345 (\$350)
 RA Siegel
 75, pl. bl. of 6, #15510-B, OG, NH, F+ to VF \$633
 (\$875) RA Siegel
 80, pl. bl. of 6, #14043-T, OG, NH, F \$1755 (\$3000)
 RegencySuperior
 85a, ZONE ZONE, TG, H, F in bl. 4 w/ 3 normals
 \$450 (\$612) Spink/Shreves
 CO14a, overprint inverted, OG, H, VF \$2280 (\$2750)
 Spink Shreves
 J14, pl. bl. of 6, #5540-T w/ imprint and star, OG,
 NH, VF \$2990 (\$3500) RA Siegel
 J21a, POSTAGE DUE omitted, OG, H, minor surface
 scrapping o/w VF in R&B margins pair w/ CZSG
 J21.1 (split overprint) \$2990 (\$5000) RA Siegel
 U2b head and overprint only, used entire,
 Ancon 7/10/20 mc to Ancon, VF \$1438 (\$2000)
 RA Siegel
 U2c, frame only, mint entire, XF \$978 (\$1000)
 RA Siegel
 U2c, frame only, used entire, Culebra 8/29/19 to
 Coveleski in Ancon, VF \$1495 (\$2000) RA Siegel

The names and addresses of the firms selling these lots are shown below.

RegencySuperior
 PO Box 8277
 St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

RA Siegel
 60 East 56th St., 4th floor
 New York, NY 10022

Spink/ Shreves Galleries
 3100 Monticello Ave., Suite 925
 Dallas, TX 75205-9966

Winners

The Palmares for the APS AmeriStamp Expo 2009 held in conjunction with TEXPEX in Arlington, Texas, February 20-22, 2009, recognizes a Single Frame Vermeil award to Gary B. Weiss for his exhibit "Bliss Provisional Postage Dues of the Canal Zone."

At StampShow 2009 held in Pittsburgh on August 6-8, 2009, the Canal Zone Study Group Handbook *Type III* authored by Tom Brougham was entered in the literature competition in the Handbooks category and received a Gold Award. This Handbook had been distributed free to current members as a supplement to the 1st Q 2009 CZP.

Postal Card Mystery By Irwin J. Gibbs

Have you seen or do you own either of these postal cards?

The 1912 Check List of *Canal Zone Stamps* by H.F. Colman and the 1914 price list of *The Stamps of the Canal Zone* by William Evans both list a 1907 1c on 2c rose postal card (UX1) and a 1908 1c green and black postal card (UX2) with no surcharge on stamp but with overprint surcharge inverted in lower left corner. The error is entirely possible since the postal cards were fed by hand into the press and one easily could have been fed in inverted.

Neither card has shown up in auction over the last 75 years including those of the Coveleski, Helme, Slawson, Plass, Conger, and Tows collections.

Hopefully someone has either seen one of these postal cards or owns one. If so please notify the editor.

CZSG to Sponsor Exhibits

Several members have asked that the CZSG sponsor a major Canal Zone exhibit on the east coast in the future. Your Board of Directors has agreed and to get this proposal underway we have made the following declaration:

The CZSG authorizes Mike Demski, George Campbell and Dick Bates to make arrangements with an east coast World Series level show (presumably NOJEX or NAPEX) for the CZSG to be a sponsoring organization in one of the years 2010, 2011, or 2012, and perhaps a second east coast show two years later.

We strongly urge another group to organize a show on the west coast or other major city that has a World Series level show in the years in which there is no show with CZSG sponsorship on the east coast.

Editor's note: NOJEX has invited the CZSG to participate in its 2011 show.

Handling of World War II Civil Official Business Mail in the Canal Zone

by Paul Ammons, L. Dann Mayo and Harry Metzler

Mail posted by non-military personnel and their families at U.S. post offices in the Canal Zone began to be subject to World War II civil censorship beginning on December 13, 1941, with the establishment of the Balboa censor station. The Cristobal censor station opened on January 5, 1942. For practical purposes, due to staffing limitations, very little outgoing mail was actually censored in the Canal Zone until mid-January 1942.

Airmail originating in the Canal Zone, but not censored there, was subject to civil censorship in the appropriate U. S. Airmail Point of Entry (APOE) censor station. Beginning December 12, 1941, the APOE for airborne mail leaving the Canal Zone for the United States and beyond was either Brownsville, Texas (FAM 8) or Miami, Florida (FAM 5). New Orleans, Louisiana was added as a northern terminus of FAM 5 in June 1943. There is sufficient evidence to believe that air mail destined for northeast U.S. was separately bundled, forwarded from Miami to New York, New York, and received initial civil censorship in New York City before going on to its final destination.

Surface mail originating in the Canal Zone, but not censored there, was subject to civil censorship in the appropriate U. S. Surface Point of Entry (SPOE) censor station. Beginning December 12, 1941, the SPOE for shipborne mail leaving the Canal Zone for the United States and beyond was either New Orleans, Louisiana; Miami, Florida; or New York, New York. Some mail originating in the Canal Zone during World War II will not have any evidence of civil censorship.

With the initiation of civil censorship in the Canal Zone, official mail of the Panama Canal government and its departments, as well as official mail of U.S. governmental agencies in the Canal Zone, was considered privileged mail not subject to censorship. This status changed on January 31, 1942, when "all official mail for points outside of the Canal Zone including the Republic of Panama with the

exception of the cities of Panama and Colon, shall be identified for mailing and mailed through the Executive Department Mailing Room at Balboa Heights, or through the Sector Censor, at Cristobal, Canal Zone."

THE PANAMA CANAL
Canal Zone
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Balboa Heights, C.Z.
January 31, 1942

RESTRICTED
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND DIVISIONS

Official Mail for Points Outside Canal Zone

1. Effective at once, and until further notice, all official mail for points outside of the Canal Zone including the Republic of Panama with the exception of the cities of Panama and Colon, shall be identified for mailing and mailed through the Executive Department Mailing Room at Balboa Heights, or through the Sector Censor, at Cristobal, Canal Zone.

2. No official mail in the foregoing category shall be mailed directly in any post office. Only official mail that is handled in accordance with this circular will be dispatched and official mail posted directly in a post office will be returned to the writer or otherwise disposed of; therefore, compliance with these instructions is necessary to avoid delay.

3. Each Department or Division shall designate a responsible employee through whom all official mail shall be handled and who shall be responsible for seeing that the mail is restricted to official business. This mail shall be sealed and forwarded either to the Mailing Room, Balboa Heights, or to the Sector Censor, Cristobal, under a sealed cover or in a sealed sack together with a statement accompanying the dispatch signed by the employee responsible stating that only official mail is enclosed.

4. Official airmail which bears postage stamps and cannot be identified by the official cover shall be endorsed "Contents Official" and initialed by the employee assigned to forwarding and identifying the mail. Offices from Gamboa and south of Gamboa shall send their mail to the Mailing Room at Balboa Heights. Offices north of Gamboa shall send their ordinary mail to the Sector Censor, Cristobal, Canal Zone, and their airmail to the Mailing Room, Balboa Heights.

5. The names of employees designated to handle and forward official mail, and specimens of their signatures and initials shall be sent to the Executive Secretary under confidential cover.

6. This official mail will then be given an identifying stamp and forwarded by the Mailing Room at Balboa Heights, and the Sector Censor at Cristobal with the least possible delay.

F. H. Wang
Executive Secretary

During the first three weeks of February 1942, the recently documented, two-line Balboa censor hand stamp shown in Fig. 1 discussed in the First Quarter 2009 CZP (170:3) was applied to official mail prior to being released to a post office.

No later than February 18, 1942, the two-line censor hand stamp was replaced by a circular hand stamp with the same wording shown in fig. 2.

A majority of the mail will also display a typed or hand stamped 'Contents Official' certification signed by "a responsible employee through whom all official mail shall be handled and who shall be responsible for seeing that the mail is restricted to official business" as illustrated in fig. 3.

RELEASED BY P. O. INSPECTOR
ENGAGED IN CENSORSHIP

Fig. 1 B&M 2.9 Balboa censor hand stamp



Fig. 2 B&M C2.1 Balboa censor hand stamp



Fig. 3 Typical 'Contents Official' hand stamp



Fig. 4 B&M C2.2 Balboa censor hand stamp



Fig. 5a



Fig. 5b



Fig. 5c



Fig. 5d



Fig. 5e

Fig. 5 Examples of the various, locally produced 'Official Business' certification hand stamps

No later than August 2, 1942, the first circular hand stamp was replaced by one with slightly different wording as shown in fig. 4.

A majority of the mail continued to also display a locally applied 'Contents Official' certification.

No later than November 10, 1942, the use of Balboa censor hand stamps on civil official business mail ended. Official business mail now displayed only a 'Official Business' certification hand stamp applied by the sending department or U.S. government agency.

Figure 6 provides examples of the various, locally produced 'Official Business' certification hand stamps seen on civil official business mail through early August 1945. The authors continue to look for copies of any Canal Zone postal circular, Panama Canal Executive Department letter, or Office of Censorship document that discusses this change in procedure.

Civil censorship in the Canal Zone ended on August 16, 1945, as per the following Postal Circular.

POSTAL CIRCULAR NO. 717

ALL POSTMASTERS:

Discontinuance of Mail Censorship

With the termination of the war with Japan, civilian censorship activities have been discontinued. It is no longer necessary to refer local or transit mail to National

Censorship, and all mail matter except that required by the Section Censor shall be dispatched to destination or delivered to the addressees as promptly as possible. Air mail matter shall be dispatched to the Air Mail Section, Balboa, direct, and ordinary mail to the proper exchange offices of Cristobal, Ancon, and Balboa. Military mail required by the Section Censor shall be referred to that office until further notice.

Official mail, with the exception of paid air mail, formerly required to be officially endorsed for dispatch by the Army Transport Service from Balboa need no longer carry the special rubber stamp endorsement and signature of an authorized mailer. Such mail, however, shall be forwarded to Balboa for dispatch by this means until further notice. Official mail to be forwarded by the Army Transport Service should be confined to important first class matter as the amount that can be sent is limited.
s/
C.H. Calhoun

Director of Posts

The handling of official mail returned to pre-war on August 18, 1945 as per Postal Circular L-154.

THE PANAMA CANAL

Canal Zone

Executive Department

Balboa Heights, C. Z.

August 18, 1945

Circular L-154

Heads of Departments and Divisions:

Official Mail for Points outside Canal Zone

1. Effective at once, the instructions contained in this office's circular of January 31, 1942, on the above subject are rescinded and all official mail shall be handled in the same manner as was being done prior to that date.

2. All offices furnished with the official rubber stamp used to identify official mail are requested to forward them to the Director of Posts, Balboa Heights, for disposal.

F. H. Wang
Executive Secretary

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CZSG Regional Meeting at NOJEX '09

Nine members and one guest attended the May 23, 2009 CZSG Regional Meeting at the annual NOJEX Show in Secaucus, New Jersey. A tenth, dealer-member Elliot Coleman, could not leave his table for the meeting, but he was surely visited by all attendees.

This was the third consecutive Regional Meeting hosted by the CZSG Metro Chapter. Mike Demski and George Campbell served as co-chairs, with a big assist from Dick Bates, who traveled in from Washington, D.C. The meeting opened with the customary introductions, followed by discussions of current and forthcoming activities. These included an update on the Metro Chapter's project on the Inventory of First Series Covers; this year's CZSG Mail Sale, being run by CZP Editor Dick Bates; and the anticipated revision to the Canal Zone section of the *Canal Zone Postal Stationary 2009*, to be published by the United Postal Stationery Society and distributed to all CZSG members in good standing.

There was considerable discussion on the possibility of a CZSG National Meeting and competitive exhibit at a future stamp show in the northeast. NOJEX organizers have expressed enthusiasm for hosting such an event in 2011 or 2012. Prerequisite for converting this opportunity into a reality is the commitment of a significant number of Canal Zone exhibits by our members. Interested individuals are urged to contact either Mike Demski (kearney511@aol.com) or George Campbell (campgs@optonline.net). The meeting concluded with the traditional "Show and Tell." Dick Bates circulated a photo of an unusual "postage due" marking on an early CZ stamp, as well as photos of the devices used to precancel CZ stamps. The latter were

found in the CZ archives at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, where Dick does volunteer work. Rob Loeffler displayed an example of a prominent broken "A" in "CANAL" on No. 100. Doug Hankins, Joe Murphy and George Campbell each showed some interesting covers to the group. The 90-minute meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM, with a "see you next year" resolution by all.

George Campbell



Attendees at NOJEX CZSG Meeting (L to R).

Back Row: Rob Loeffler, Joe Chervenyak, George Campbell, Doug Hankins, Joe Murphy, Joe Napp.

Front Row: Len Frank, Bob Hubsmith, Mike Demski, Dick Bates.

Puerto Rican Regiment

continued from page 25

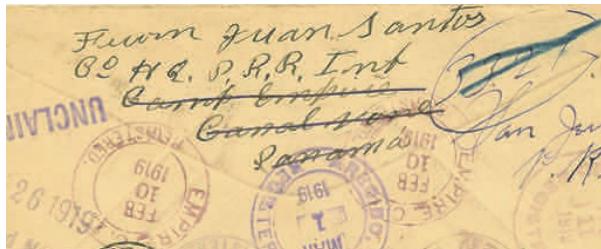


Fig. 2 Partial back of cover in fig. 1 showing Camp Empire return address

Figure 2 shows that the cover was sent by a Juan Santos, Headquarters Puerto Rican Regiment Infantry (PRRI). Assigned at Empire, the PRRI served in the canal defense force for the remainder of the war and returned to Puerto Rico in 1919. In June 1920, the PRRI was officially redesignated as the 65th Infantry U.S. Army. The 65th was recalled to the Panama Canal Zone in 1943 again to provide support to area defense.

References:

Worthington, Wayne, "The Puerto Rican Regiments," *Isthmian Collectors Club Journal*, Sep-Oct 2008
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/arng-pr.htm>

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